



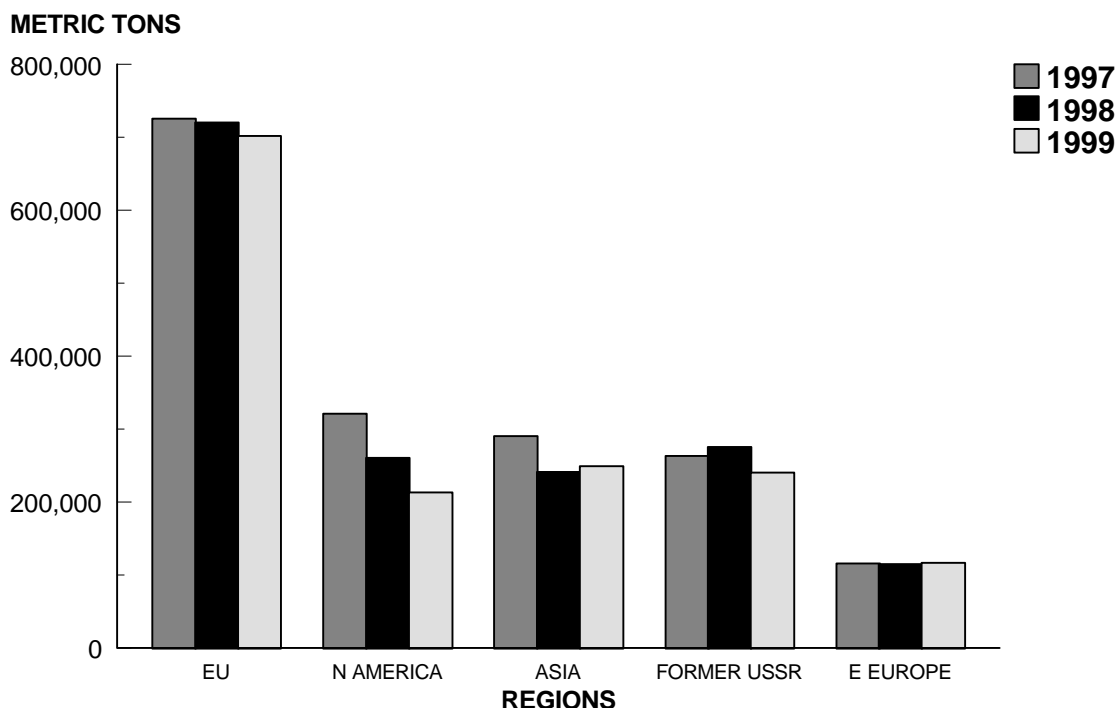
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Tobacco: World Markets and Trade

World's Top Leaf Importing Regions



Worldwide leaf imports are forecast to be down about 5 percent in 1999 due mainly to global oversupply. Leaf imports in North America are expected to decline by 18 percent because of high stock levels in the United States and declining cigarette production. The Russian Federation's leaf imports are estimated to drop by 17 percent as a result of the economic crisis. However, Asian region leaf imports are projected to rise by 3 percent due to increased demand in the Philippines and Japan.